

California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Cal Poly the Student Community Liaison Committee
Endorses a Citywide Safety Enhancement Zone for Mardi Gras**

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Associated Students Inc. is pleased to announce that the Student Community Liaison Committee (SCLC) endorsed the concept of a citywide Safety Enhancement Zone during the week of Mardi Gras.

At the SCLC meeting October 21, every voting member, with the exception of an abstention from Mayor Dave Romero, voted in favor of a citywide enhancement zone in lieu of the originally proposed neighborhood zone. SCLC voting members include San Luis Obispo chief of police Deb Linden, City Administrator Ken Hampian, Cal Poly Vice President for Student Affairs Cornel Morton, and ASI student Government President Blake Bolton, and the and Cuesta College student body president, among others.

A citywide enhancement zone would allow all members of the city, not just students, to be held accountable for safe activities during Mardi Gras festivities, Bolton explained. Specific neighborhood zones identify geographical areas that would incur triple fines to persons congregating on Foothill and California Boulevards and downtown during Mardi Gras.

"If we are ever to solve the issue of community relations especially in the context of Mardi Gras we need to stop pointing fingers and send a message that this is a community issue," said Bolton. "We also need to address the fact that students and permanent residents should be treated equally despite the location of their residence."

Students, neighborhood groups and the Chamber of Commerce voiced concerns that neighborhood zones would create a spillover effect into other areas not in the safety enhancement zones. The SCLC Mardi Gras subcommittee raised the issues of equity, perceptions, and messaging, which ultimately led to the endorsement of a citywide zone.

"This endorsement is a big step towards greater communication with students because members from each aspect of the community recognized that issues that face a community must be dealt with by every member involved," Bolton added.

The San Luis Obispo city council will be presented with multiple safety enhancement zone options at its next meeting on Dec. 7.

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